



# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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March 27, 2017

Marlene M. von Friederichs-Fitzwater, Ph.D., MPH  
Founder and Executive Director  
Health Communication Research Institute, Inc  
5025 J Street, Suite 311  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Dr. von Friederichs-Fitzwater:

As the Director of Outreach for St. Francis of Assisi Parish, we are pleased to support Joshua's House, a Hospice House for the terminally ill homeless.

St. Francis has a reputation of working with the homeless and the poor and the needy since 2004. Our experience has always been to take care of those less fortunate through our Steps and Breakfast Ministry. Each evening, 365 days of the year, we provide a safe shelter for 16 women and men and provide them with a breakfast in the morning as they prepare to leave for the day.

Through the years we have come to recognize that homeliness is a significant health concern in our region and we believe that a hospice house is a much needed addition to Sacramento's continuum of care.

Statistics show that more and more homeless people are dying on the streets and we are seeing that these numbers are increasing on a yearly basis. There is not one reason why these numbers are increasing, but what we do know that each person deserves the dignity and respect all of us desire in our last days.

Part of our St. Francis Parish mission is to know that we are "Challenged by the Holy Spirit to reach beyond ourselves to care for our neighbors, the poor, and the marginalized."

It is with this spirit that we highly support the mission of Joshua's House which is to provide a hospice house for homeless where all are treated with dignity and respect and receive quality hospice care.

We are pleased to partner in this endeavor because Joshua's house purpose in total alignment with our St. Francis Parish mission.

Pax et Bonum,

Richard Hernandez,  
Director of Outreach  
St. Francis Parish